



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
SAFER COMMUNITIES



OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Your Ref :
Our Ref: 23-0951
Enquiry:
Telephone: 7322 3347
Facsimile: 7322 4180

Hon. Ms Laura Curran MLC
Parliament House
Adelaide SA 5000

Email: lungisa.bickle@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Hon. Curran

Re: Freedom of Information Act application

In reference to your application made pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act), access was sought to:

“Please provide copies of all documents containing the following information: Availability of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to former SAPOL officers and their family members. If the EAP is not available to former SAPOL officers and their family members, a list of services that are available to them.”

On 31 October 2022, I had a telephone conversation with Ms Bickle regarding the scope of your request. She confirmed that you were not seeking all documents as stated, just the last part of your request. She narrowed the scope to:

“Availability of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to former SAPOL officers and their family members. If the EAP is not available to former SAPOL officers and their family members, a list of services that are available to them.”

South Australia Police (SAPOL) has located a document that falls within the scope of your request. The document is numbered and described in the following schedule. The schedule contains the details of the determination in compliance with section 23.



**Government of
South Australia**

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South Australia Police, GPO Box 1539, Adelaide SA 5001 ABN 93 799 021 552 www.police.sa.gov.au



SA POLICE - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION UNIT SCHEDULE		
No.	Document Description	Status
1	<i>Availability of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to former SAPOL officers and their family members.</i>	Full Release

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your FOI application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published on the SAPOL website Disclosure Log. A copy of PC045 can be found at https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf. If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing by 23 December 2022.

Yours sincerely



Senior Sergeant Paul Friend
Freedom of Information Unit
(Accredited Freedom of Information Officer)

23 November 2022

Availability of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to former SAPOL officers and their family members. If the EAP is not available to former SAPOL officers and their family members, a list of services that are available to them.

- EAP is only available to serving employees (sworn and non-sworn). An exception to this would be an employee who avails themselves to the EAP just prior to separation from SAPOL and still had remaining sessions from their 6 session allowance. These sessions would be honoured by the EAP provider Corporate Health Group. Other than the aforementioned exception, no EAP services are offered to former employees or their family post-employment with SAPOL. Like the community, former employees and their families can seek Mental Health Services through the usual channels.
- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Employee Assistance Section (EAS) conducted a 'Family night' for each cadet course at the Police Academy. The mandatory session was for the family, or significant other, of cadets in relation to the realities of policing; focussing heavily on the impact policing may have on their loved one, from a mental health perspective, short and long-term. EAS provided attendees with the Section's contact details so they could reach out to an EAS clinician in the event they noticed adverse effects or mental health issues in their loved one.
- Upon request, and by agreement of the employee, a volunteer police Chaplain can/has been utilised to provide ongoing support to former SAPOL officers and family members.